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E.O. 12065: GDS 8/26/87 (MCCALL, SHERROD B) OR-M
TAGS: PEPR, UNGA, UR, US, AF, PK, IR
SUBJECT: SOVIETS LAUD NEW AFGHAN PROPOSAL FOR TALKS
WITH PAKISTAN AND IRAN

REF: (A) MOSCOW 11933, (B) KABUL 1260

1. (C-ENTIRE TEXT)
2. SUMMARY: MOSCOW HAS ISSUED ITS FIRST COMMENTARY ON THE AUGUST 24 DRA STATEMENT -- PREDICTABLY
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CHAMPIONING IT AS AN "HISTORICAL INITIATIVE."

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PRAYDA AND IZVESTIYA PUBLISHED THE FULL TEXT OF THE STATEMENT. END SUMMARY.

3. THE COMMENTARY BY NEWS ANALYST LEONID PONOMAREV, CARRIED ON TASS ENGLISH AUGUST 25, BUT NOT IN TODAY'S CENTRAL PAPERS, FOCUSES ON THE PROPOSAL'S "NEW ELEMENTS": THE DRA'S NON-OPPOSITION TO TRIPARTITE TALKS AND TO THE PARTICIPATION OF THE UN SYG OR HIS REPRESENTATIVE. THE "PIVOT" OF THE NEW AFGHAN PROPOSAL AND OF A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE REGION'S PROBLEMS, PONOMAREV WRITES, IS THE GUARANTEE OF "FULL AND RELIABLE" TERMINATION OF OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE IN AFGHANISTAN AND THE "CREATION OF CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH SUCH INTERFERENCE WOULD BE RULED OUT IN THE FUTURE."

4. IZVESTIYA LAST NIGHT (AUGUST 25) AND PRAYDA TODAY CARRY THE FULL TEXT OF THE DRA STATEMENT WITHOUT ANY INDEPENDENT SOVIET COMMENTARY. A COMPARISON OF THE RUSSIAN TEXT WITH THE DARI-LANGUAGE VERSION PROVIDED IN REFTEL B SHOWS THEM VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL. THE LAST TWO PARAGRAPHS, WHICH EMBASSY KABUL NOTED WERE LEFT OUT OF THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE VERSION PUBLISHED BY THE DRA, RAN IN THE RUSSIAN VERSION.

5. THE AWKWARD PLACING OF THE PHRASE "AND VICE VERSA" (IN RUSSIAN "I NAOBOROT"), WHICH WAS DROPPED FROM RADIO MOSCOW VERSIONS OF THE STATEMENT YESTERDAY (REFTEL A), APPEARED AGAIN IN THE PRAYDA AND IZVESTIYA VERSIONS. ALTHOUGH IT IS STILL A BIT OBSCURE, WE SUSPECT THAT WHAT

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THE AFGHANS AND SOVIETS WANTED TO SAY WAS THIS: THE QUICKER AGREEMENTS ARE REACHED ENDING OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE IN THE COUNTRY THE QUICKER SOVIET TROOPS WILL BEGIN TO PULL OUT, AND THE SLOWER THOSE AGREEMENTS ARE REACHED THE LONGER IT WILL BE BEFORE THE TROOPS PULL OUT.

FOR KABUL: MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. MATLOCK

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